



THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 20, 1909.

The two Virginia senators having voted on Friday, assured a delegation of Richmond shoe manufacturers, who desire free hides, that they would vote for hides to be admitted free, but that they would vote for a duty on lumber, iron and coal. To this the Fredericksburg Star asks, Why? and continuing says:

And we further desire to ask whether, after giving the shoe manufacturers free hides to make shoes from, which we favor, whether they will give the consumers who buy and wear shoes free shoes, which we also favor. If not, why not? Again we ask if their excuse for voting for a tariff on lumber is that the country needs the revenue, a weak excuse which no one accepts, why discriminate against hides? Why not raise some of this needed revenue by a duty on hides? Why tax the consumers of lumber, coal and iron for revenue and give the shoe manufacturers free hides? Is it because Virginia has no interest in the hide industry while she has an interest in lumber, coal and iron? If this is the excuse of our democratic senators they have reduced the tariff to a local issue and are preparing to secure for Virginia a part of the loss. In other words, where lower rates affect certain of their Virginia constituents they are prepared to vote to protect them. Where they do not, they will vote according to democratic principles. No comment is necessary. Weak statesmanship needs none. It speaks for itself.

That the financial interests and the big special privilege combinations to be benefited by the Aldrich tariff bill have started an agitation among business men asking to force the measure was charged yesterday by Senator Beveridge, of Indiana. Business men, he declared, had been prevailed upon to write their senators demanding the immediate passage of the law. He had himself received fifteen such letters all couched in the same terms and all obviously written by request. But he had received at least 3,000 letters urging him to fight the bill in the interest of honest tariff revision. Upon this organized movement to force the bill Senator Aldrich is relying to effect its passage. As the bill is chiefly in the interest of the great combinations the inspiration of the movement cannot be doubted.

The employees of the sugar trust in the Brooklyn refineries, who were indicted by a federal grand jury last week for connection with the weighing frauds, have been dismissed by the high officials of the trust. Some time ago they dismissed Superintendent Spitzer, whom they accused of having given the order to operate the secret spring that affected the false weighing. This is the basest ingratitude. These men received no reward for their dishonesty of which the sugar trust was the direct beneficiary and few there are who do not believe that the unfortunate men were prompted to do as they did by their employers. Few corporations and fewer trusts have souls.

PRESIDENT TAFT'S plan looking toward economy in the purchase of supplies for the government service has taken practical form by an executive order just issued to make it operative. Its specific purpose is to systematize the purchase of supplies needed in common by two or more departments, to procure supplies at lower and uniform prices and to carry out more effectively the spirit of the act of January 27, 1894. The order creates a general supply committee which it is hoped may put a stop to the graft and frauds connected with government purchases of supplies.

A STATUE of John Witherspoon, president of Princeton College and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was unveiled today in Washington. He was the only clergyman who signed the declaration, and is the only signer, except Benjamin Franklin, to have a statue erected in his honor in any of the many squares and circles and open spaces of the national capital.

### From Washington.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.] Washington, May 20. The newly created boards of awards which by direction of President Taft is to do the purchasing of all government supplies, organized today by making Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Hilley, chairman, and W. W. Ludlow, chief clerk of the treasury, secretary. The comptroller of the treasury was directed to prepare a draft of a uniform contract, which would comply with the law making stipulations as to the Navy, War and Interior Department. No bids were awarded, but a large number were opened and are being tabulated. The award may be made June 11.

Mrs. Taft continues to improve in health, according to information from the White House today. The president's wife will soon be entirely recovered from the nervous breakdown she suffered Monday following an operation for tonsillitis undergone by her younger son, Charles Taft. The boy is also recovering rapidly. It is expected that Mrs. Taft will receive guests at the White House tomorrow.

John Orth, the Princeton, O., machinist, who claims to be the missing

Archduke John of Austria, will be given an opportunity by the Austrian government to prove his alleged identity. Baron Ambrosy, chargé d'affaires of the Austrian Embassy here, has received a communication from the Consul General of Austria at Chicago, saying that Orth has offered to submit an autograph letter to that official for the purpose of showing that his handwriting is identical with that of the missing Archduke. The Baron has replied that he will forward Orth's letter to the Austrian office with the request that it be compared with the known handwriting of Archduke John. Baron Ambrosy still expresses confidence in his former assertion that Orth is an impostor.

The spectacle was presented in the Senate today of the republicans offering to put a tariff on cotton seed oil and an article of southern production and the democratic senators from that section indignantly rejecting the proposition which had been presented by Mr. Aldrich.

The grand total of appropriations made by the last session of Congress was \$1,074,401,187 according to a statement prepared in accordance with law by the clerks of the committees on appropriations of the House and Senate. That total is an increase of \$36,000,313.55 over the appropriations for the first session of the 60th Congress. In addition to the specific appropriations were authorized to be entered into for certain public works requiring future appropriations by Congress, in the aggregate sum of \$25,000,575. The new officers and employees specifically authorized are 10,120 in number, at an annual compensation of \$11,17,899, and those abolished or omitted are 6,233 in number, at an annual compensation of \$5,304,890—a net increase of 3,887 in number and \$5,872,909 in amount. Because a number of salaries omitted in the Census office will simply be shifted to the general fund for the taking of the new census the actual increase in employment is 4,503 in number and \$6,736,269 in amount of pay. The permanent appropriations which include interest on the public debt, the requirement to meet the sinking fund, and other fixed charges against the government show an estimated increase of \$5,901,787. Reductions are shown of \$1,146,034 in the fortification act; \$25,566, in the legislative, executive and judicial act; \$1,245,000 in pension act; \$2,751,821 in the total of miscellaneous or claims acts, and the considerable sum of \$38,391,969 on account of deficiencies.

### DAVIS MAY PLEAD INSANITY.

Pleas of not guilty were entered by John C. Davis and his brother, Martin T. Davis, when they were arraigned in Criminal Court No. 1 in Washington yesterday upon indictments growing out of the alleged misappropriations of funds amounting to the complaints against John C. Davis to more than \$500,000.

John C. Davis pleaded not guilty to 10 indictments, one charging false pretenses jointly with his brother, Martin T. Davis, who was secretary of the Potomac Building and Loan Association; two alleging forgery and seven charging embezzlement of \$52,000 in funds entrusted to him for investment. Martin pleaded not guilty to charges of embezzling \$3,000 from the building association and to the charge of false pretenses.

The suggestion that John C. Davis will plead insanity as a defense was borne out by his attitude in court yesterday, for he muttered incessantly to himself, and his attorney and lawyer, Henry E. Davis, his counsel, had to coach him throughout the pleading and to the answer required. Davis, however, upon several occasions forsook the matter to ask loud and plain questions of Clerk Hawken.

**OPIMUM FOUND ON HAINS.** Enough opium to cause the death of a person taking it all at once was found concealed in the clothing of Capt. Peter C. Hains when he was searched in the Long Island City jail after he was sentenced to Sing Sing, on Monday.

Whether the prisoner had procured the poison with suicidal intent, the authorities have no knowledge. Observers of Capt. Hains during his trial expressed the opinion every day that he was "doped." He acted like a man under the influence of some nerve-rattling drug. There has been a suspicion ever since he was arrested for shooting Anna that he was supplied with drugs in his cell.

No decision has been reached by the warden as to the kind of work to which Capt. Hains will be assigned. He will be a member of what is known as the "idle gang" for a couple of days, when some sort of labor will be chosen for him.

**OUTSIDER FROM WHITE HOUSE LAWN.** The suspicion prevalent in Washington for some time that the establishment of the much-vaunted "Speedway band concerts" and fashionable assemblages of carriage and automobile companies by the Tafts was merely a device to get rid of the Saturday Marine Band concerts on the White House lawn was confirmed yesterday. An order was issued by the superintendent of buildings and grounds, suspending the Saturday Marine Band concerts on the White House lawn and providing that the Marine Band shall play on Saturdays this summer at the Speedway pavilion.

**EX SULTAN'S CASH.** The grand vizier has chosen a small committee to visit Abdul Hamid, the deposed sultan of Turkey, at Saloniki, and ask him to give up to the present government the various sums of money he has on deposit in foreign countries.

This committee will remind Abdul Hamid that his life was spared, and will be spared; that the government allows him \$5,000 a month for his maintenance, and that it is only just that he should return the money drawn from the country.

It is expected that Abdul Hamid will consent to this proposal.

**The Tariff Bill.** Charlotte, N. C., May 20.—The tariff bill will be in President Taft's hand by the 20th of June. This is the belief expressed by the president himself on the way to Charlotte and represents the opinion of the leading members of the senate with whom he has consulted this week. Some of the senators are inclined to view the situation pessimistically, the president said, and are still asserting that it will be August first before the date of adjournment. There is nothing to warrant this belief in the opinion of the president. The president believes that the tariff bill when it reaches his hands constitutes the genuine revision pledged by the party and he has no doubt that it will merit his signature.

The White House Inna summer hotel at Saranac Lake, N. Y., was burned to the ground today, causing a loss of \$100,000.

### News of the Day.

The Westminster authorities have refused permission to place the ashes of George Meredith in the Abbey.

In spite of Mr. Dolliver's exposure of its absurdities Mr. Aldrich yesterday forced through the old "basket clause" of the steel schedule.

The representation of the Department of Justice in Paris yesterday recommended that the Castelvane children remain in the custody of the mother.

It is understood that the report of the referee in New York who took testimony has recommended to the court that a divorce be granted Mrs. Frank Jay Gould. The names of the correspondents will not be made public.

Attorney General Wickham announced at Washington yesterday that a test law case would be made of the decision of Secretary Wilson that it is a violation of the pure food law to use bleaching process in making flour.

Following an investigation of the Baltimore postoffice, conducted several days ago by a number of the Washington postoffice inspectors, William S. Myer, assistant cashier, was arrested yesterday afternoon charged with the embezzlement of \$1,355 of the government funds.

State's Attorney Wayman, of Chicago, yesterday outlined his case against Martin B. Madden, president of the Associated Building Trades Council; F. A. Pouchot and H. J. Boyle, labor leaders, charged with extortion in calling and settling of a strike called on the Joseph Klicka Company, of Chicago.

Cheaper homes are proposed in an amendment to the tariff bill introduced by Mr. Johnston, of Alabama, in the Senate yesterday. It proposes to place on the free list all sorts of building material including lumber, laths, shingles, doors, lime, brick, cement, windowglass, linseed oil, nails and white lead.

The annual count and checking up of counterfeit money, dies, etc., captured during the year by the Secret Service force, is in progress at the Treasury department. The work is being done by a special committee appointed by Secretary MacVegh. It is stated that the work this year will be much less than heretofore, indicating that the Secret Service force has a firm grip on the counterfeiting business.

National League games yesterday resulted: At Brooklyn—Brooklyn, 2; Pittsburgh, 0. At New York—New York, 18; Cincinnati, 3. At Boston—St. Louis, 2; Boston, 0. At Philadelphia—Philadelphia, 4; Chicago, 2. American League games resulted: At Chicago—Boston, 5; Chicago, 2. At Cleveland—Cleveland, 7; Washington, 4. At Detroit—Philadelphia, 10; Detroit, 2. At St. Louis—New York, 5; St. Louis, 1.

Ervin G. Long, president of the E. G. Long Company, dealers in electric railway materials at No. 50 Church street, New York, one of the Hudson Terminal buildings, was found crushed to death Tuesday evening on a skylight in an air shaft at the level of the second floor. He had fallen or jumped from a window in his office on the thirteenth floor. His body was found floating in the water in the air shaft at the level of the second floor. He had been in ill health for several weeks, too.

### Virginia News.

William H. Smith, a leading business man and member of the City Council of Winchester died yesterday.

Lieut. James Paulding Murdoch, U. S. N., and Miss Rebecca Coke Nash were married at Portsmouth yesterday.

Howard H. Bragg, who killed Thomas E. Drawmond near Venus last March, was yesterday found guilty at Lexington of murder in the first degree.

Messrs. Davis & Davis, Washington patent attorneys, report the grant, this week, to citizens of this state, of the following patents: W. O. Lawson, Roanoke, elevated tramway; W. B. Parshke, Kara, combined planter and fertilizer distributor; J. S. Shepherd, Vinton, mail-bag catcher.

### O'BRIEN AND JOHNSON DRAW.

Jack Johnson, the big colored heavyweight champion, failed to win over Jack O'Brien in Philadelphia last night in a six-round bout. The fight was even and the consensus of opinion was that it should have been a draw, had a decision been permissible. O'Brien's marvellous fast foot work and his superior blocking saved him from damage in several close mixes, and three times he was forced to his knees by the great strength and weight of Johnson in the clinches.

It was a fast fight, O'Brien doing most of the leading. Johnson was slow on his feet and appeared not to be in the best condition. Repeatedly the champion rushed his smaller antagonist, but seldom landed effectively. A right-hand-counter in the fifth round cut O'Brien's right eye and this was the sum total of the damage done in the six rounds.

O'Brien was in and out like a flash in nearly every round, stabbing Johnson on the face, but the blows lacked force and had no effect other than to make the big black man grin and wave his hand at the crowd. The spectators shouted wildly every time O'Brien landed and hooted Johnson for his apparent rough work in the clinches.

O'Brien weighed 162½ pounds while Johnson's acknowledged weight was 205, and it was probably more. Johnson looked tired and anxious in the fourth round and O'Brien appeared confident throughout the bout.

Johnson had nothing to say after the bout, except that he thought he had the better of it.

### RED MEN AT ROANOKE.

The sixty-third annual session of the great council of Virginia of the Improved Order of Red Men began in Roanoke yesterday in the Wigwam of Hiawatha Tribe. Great Sachem Asa S. Rice, of Eastville, is presiding. There were about 150 officers and representatives present. Great Sachem Rice made his long talk, in which he showed that the order in the state is in a most prosperous condition. He was followed by Great Keeper of the Records Frank H. Crouch, who made his long talk. He reported an increase of six tribes since the last annual meeting. There was a big time last night. The two big tribes of the city met on the market square, headed by the Red Men's Band, and marched to the Ponce de Leon Hotel, where they were joined by the officers and representatives of the Great Council. Then the whole party marched to the Assembly Hall amid the burning of red fire, where a reception was held.

### Sixty-first Congress.

Washington, May 20.

#### SENATE.

There were about six republicans and four democrats in the chamber this morning when the Senate convened but Senator Aldrich briskly began work on the tariff bill.

He called up a paragraph in the chemical schedule which was passed over some time ago. Mr. Stone suggested the absence of a quorum and the signal bells announcing the roll call brought three-fourths of the members to their seats.

The first subject under consideration was extract of quebracho, which is the extract of a tree that grows in Argentine and is used for tanning purposes.

Senator Daniel made a lengthy speech favoring the Payne schedule. He said that unless that was done a trust in London would control the industry and twenty-three manufacturers of tanning extracts in this country would be driven out of business.

In opposing the proposed increase in the duty on quebracho, Mr. Smith, of South Carolina, made a conservation speech. He said that in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, there were vast regions which had been deforested through the efforts to get the oak and chestnut bark from which the tanning extracts are made. He said that one of the great questions before the country is the preservation of the forests. He advocated a low duty on quebracho as an aid to forest conservation in this country.

Following a lengthy discussion in which Senator La Follette and others spoke for the interests of the tanners and Senators Daniel, Simmons and Martin for the American producers of tanning extracts a vote was taken on Mr. La Follette's proposition that the duty on quebracho be reduced from one-half to one quarter of a cent a pound. The result showed a greater splitting of party lines than on any vote that has yet been taken since the tariff bill was under consideration in the Senate. Fourteen republicans voted for the reduction, and five democrats including the two Virginia senators, voted against the proposed reduction. The vote was 38 to 29 against the La Follette amendment and the finance committee's amendment restoring the Dingley rates of one-half of a cent a pound was then agreed to.

#### HOUSE.

The House was in session just five minutes today, the shortest on record. An attempt was made to get a vote on Payne's motion to pass the Philippine tariff bill, which failed last Monday because there was no quorum present. As soon as the speaker put the motion, Mr. Macon made the point that there was no quorum and the House was compelled to adjourn.

Mr. Dalzell who was present today for the first time since the death of his wife last week, acted as speaker pro tem in the absence of Mr. Cannon.

#### 115 NEW NATIONAL BANKS.

The returns from national banks giving details of their condition on April 28, 1909, show remarkable increase in all the principal items. The summary of the statements shows that since May 14, 1908, a little more than one year ago, their total loans and discounts have increased by \$434,764,000 and during the same time the total resources of the banks have increased \$774,261,000. During the same period government deposits have decreased \$111,255,000 and bills payable and redemptions have decreased \$9,897,000. Other increases during the year are given as follows:

United States bonds, \$7,668,140; due from national banks, \$170,534,483; specie, \$2,516,502; legal tenders, \$14,714,055; capital stock, \$21,617,983; surplus and other profits, \$36,968,444; circulation, \$22,278,803; due to national and state banks and bankers, \$344,331,583; individual deposits, \$613,403,594.

The increase in the number of national banks during the year was 115.

On April 28, 1909, the aggregate resources of all the banks is shown to have been \$9,368,883,843 and their loans and discounts \$4,963,110,868, with individual deposits amounting to \$4,326,060,384.

#### Suspensions.

Boston, May 20.—The Consolidated Stock Exchange firm of Sederquist, Barry & Co., which did a large business throughout New England, suspended business today. The liabilities are believed to be small.

Providence, R. I., May 20.—On orders from Boston, the Providence office of Sederquist, Barry & Co., suspended business today. The liabilities of the Providence office will be under \$50,000.

Boston, May 20.—Following the news of the suspension this morning of Sederquist, Barry & Co., stock brokers, the street was again startled by the report that the firm of E. P. Oramm & Co., another stock brokerage firm, had been so affected by the failure of the Sederquist Company, which carried their New York account, that a notice had been issued of the suspension of that firm. This was followed by the announcement of the assignment of the general brokerage firm of Phillips, Pattee & Co., the New York correspondents of Sederquist, Barry & Co. No figures are yet available as to either firm's liabilities.

**Believe He Will Not Accept Position.** Boston, Mass., May 20.—That former President Elliot, of Harvard, does not intend to accept the post of ambassador to the Court of St. James, is considered certain today, in Harvard circles, following a speech he made to the students who last evening presented him with a magnificent clock as a farewell token of their appreciation.

#### SOFT, GLOSSY HAIR

It Can Only Be Had Where There Is No Dandruff

Any man or woman who wants soft, glossy hair must be free of dandruff, which causes itching hair. Since it has become known that dandruff is a germ disease, the old hair preparations that were mostly scalp irritants, have been abandoned, and the public, barbers and doctors included, have taken to using Neer's Hairdressing. The only hair preparation that kills the dandruff germ. Dr. Dodd, Dickinson, N. D., says: "Neer's not only cleanses the scalp from dandruff and prevents the hair falling out, but promotes a new growth. Hairdressing keeps my hair very glossy."

Sold by Ernest L. Allen & Co., agents, two sizes 50c. and \$1.00. Send 10c in stamps, for sample to The Neer Co., Detroit, Mich.

### Today's Telegraphic News

No Debate.

[Special Dispatch to the Alexandria Gazette.] Richmond, Va., May 20.—No debate between Mr. Tucker and Judge Mann occurred at Warm Springs today. Mr. Tucker did not send a challenge saying that he had already challenged Judge Mann several times and that the latter had consistently declined. Both spoke today to the same crowd.

#### Police and Strikers Clash.

Paris, May 20.—A serious clash between the police and a group of strikers took place this afternoon in front of the St. Paul Auditorium, in which a number on both sides were injured. The strikers—what few remain of them—had been holding a meeting in the auditorium, and the encounter took place immediately after the adjournment of the meeting. Police patrols throughout the city have been doubled as a result of the fight.

Paris, May 20.—"The strikeless strike" of Paris continued today without any new development. This being Ascension Day, a feast day in the Catholic calendar, practically all labor was suspended in its observance.

The strike leaders have issued a call for a big labor meeting tonight, at which an effort will be made to prevent a resumption of work on Friday.

The indications are that the meeting will be as much of a fizzle as other recent meetings of the strikers. If it is, the strike may be declared off officially.

#### Steamers Still in Peril.

St. Johns, N. F., May 20.—At 10:30 today the position of the Allan liner Mongolian, caught in an ice floe off this port, was unchanged, although she is still in grave danger. She is fully a mile from land and between her and the shore arctic ice is piling up to an immense height. If the weather holds as it is, however, it is very likely the big steamer with her 500 passengers will be able to extricate herself from the encircling ice and make her way well out to sea, continuing on to Halifax.

It is not known here, however, whether or not her hull has been damaged by the pressure of ice on her sides, but as the vessel displays no distress signals, it is believed that she is intact and is not making any water.

There is absolutely no chance of sending her help from this harbor. Between the entrance to the bay and the big ocean liner stretches the giant waste of ice through which no craft can make a way, and across which it would be impossible for humans to make their way. Therefore, the only hope is that the Mongolian may be able to make her own way out of the ice and on to sea.

Between the harbor entrance and the shore the Halifax steamer Prospero is wedged.

#### Jumped from Williamsburg Bridge.

New York, May 20.—A man who was declared to be Albert B. House, of Brooklyn, jumped from the Williamsburg bridge into the East river, a distance of 135 feet, early today. He was picked up by a passing tug boat and taken home. House, who is known as "Mysterious Albert, the high diver," accompanied by two other men, drove to the center of the bridge in an automobile. He had on swimming trunks and without hesitation went to the rail and jumped before the police on duty could reach him. The current carried his body down stream where it was picked up by the tug boat that had been waiting. The two men who accompanied him were arrested. House, who is a carpenter, soon got all right and explained that he made the jump from the bridge on a wager of \$1,000. He was badly bruised about the body as the result of striking the water, and complained of pain, but it is not believed he received internal injuries. He expects to take a job at Coney Island as a result of his feat.

**O'Brien's Fight With Johnson.** Philadelphia, May 20.—Jack Johnson will not do as a champion. That is the consensus of opinion of the sporting experts who saw last night's battle, when the giant negro, who holds the title of champion heavyweight of the world, failed utterly to make a creditable showing against Jack O'Brien, the local light heavyweight. Johnson cannot punch. He has the height, the reach and the weight, but he was slow as molasses last night and he had not the strength behind his blows to stow the white man away despite the fact that he several times landed on a vital spot. Johnson acted as though he was still afraid of punishment, and he held back and awaited his opponent flat-footedly with the result that O'Brien danced in and out like a hornet, landing at will, and in most of the rounds out-pointing the negro. But even O'Brien's friends will not claim any world's championship for him on the strength of what he did last night. He could not hit, but that had been expected, and the only damage he showed on the negro was to bang up the latter's left eye a trifle.

**Alleged Wholesale Murder Society.** St. Petersburg, May 20.—A warrant was issued today for the arrest of President Dubrovnik, of the union of Russian people organization, on a charge of complicity in a number of murders that are laid at the door of the organization. The accusation against Dubrovnik was made by Deputy Hertzstein, of the First Duma, in the trial at Helsingfors of members of the organization on charges that Dubrovnik hired assassins to kill certain men who stood in the way of the organization's schemes. The general charge that the union is a wholesale murder society is also made against Dubrovnik. There is much speculation here as to whether the charge against Dubrovnik will be pushed, owing to the fact that he is known to be one of the czar's intimate friends. Premier Stolypin, named by Hertzstein as one of the contemplated victims of the union, is vigorously pushing the prosecution. Dubrovnik denies every charge made by Hertzstein.

#### Patten Predicts High Wheat.

Chicago, May 20.—High wheat for another year. This was the prediction made by James A. Patten, to the flour men in an address on the present grain situation. Patten said high prices would prevail no matter what happened to the present bill deal. "I call your attention to the statement of James J. Hill, that consumption is rapidly overtaking production," he said. "Further than that, the farmers in a large part of the country have found they can make more money by raising other cereals and have abandoned wheat as unprofitable."

### The President in Charlotte.

Charlotte, N. C., May 20.—Greeted with a salute of twenty-one guns by the Charlotte Artillery, and with cheers from the thousands of people gathered from the surrounding counties, President Taft arrived here this morning to assist in the celebration of the 134th anniversary of the signing of the Mecklenburg declaration of independence.

When the president's train arrived, shortly after 10 o'clock, troop E, of the 11th U. S. Cavalry, was drawn up at the station waiting to act as his guard of honor throughout the day. The governor of the state, the mayor of the city, a number of distinguished invited guests, and the 17th U. S. Infantry band were also on hand, in addition to the townspeople and excursionists to welcome the nation's chief.

From the station, the president was escorted through the streets to a mammoth grand stand where he reviewed a parade of military and civic organizations, listened to speeches and made one himself.

In the evening the town will be illuminated in honor of the president and the Mecklenburg declaration. In order that the illumination might be as general as possible the local electric light company has given all the merchants of the town free power for the occasion.

Charlotte, N. C., May 20.—President Taft has been more than half won over to the side of the Mecklenburg declaration of independence contenders, and when he makes his speech to the people of Charlotte at four p. m. today he will come out strong for the authenticity of the document that many authorities assert was never written. "There is no doubt whatever," said the president on the way to Charlotte, "that a declaration of independence was drawn up. There is no doubt that the colonists of Mecklenburg decided to sever their connection with Great Britain. But whether the declaration they framed contained the language that Jefferson used in the declaration of independence of July fourth, 1776, is a matter of controversy."

In his address this afternoon the president will take the Mecklenburg declaration as an example of the manner in which the Anglo-Saxons go about the business of self-improvement and progress.

The president was escorted to the Selwyn Hotel as soon as he arrived and later reviewed a great parade. A drizzle of rain marred the day in a great measure, but the original programme was carried out in spite of the unpleasant weather. Mrs. Stonewall Jackson, the venerable widow of the Confederate war hero, was introduced to the president at the hotel and occupied a seat in the president's box on the reviewing stand.

Charlotte, N. C., May 20.—A cloud-burst occurred in the middle of the parade at 1:30 p. m. and a panic resulted in the crowd surrounding the president's stand. One of the electric light wires in the street in front of the stand was broken by a passing float and a loud explosion accompanied by a blinding flash within 100 feet of the president added to excitement. Water poured through canopy over President Taft in sheets and his silk hat and coat were drenched in spite of efforts made by his aide, Capt. Bait, to protect him with an umbrella.

The parade had to be abandoned. A scramble was made by the crowd outside to get into shelter of the president's stand and for time it looked as though structure would be smashed by weight. Police succeeding in setting back before the drenched damage occurred. President laughed through the excitement and kept up a good natured conversation with those around him while water ran in rivulets off his mustache and chin. As soon as the worst of the storm was over he was hustled into closed automobile and taken back to Selwyn Hotel.

#### Castro's Wealth.

New York, May 20.—According to the officers and passengers on the steamship Prinz Sigismund, which arrived here today, after a voyage from Central and South American ports, former President Castro, of Venezuela, succeeded in getting a large amount of his treasure out of Venezuela by a ruse. The Prinz Sigismund officers declare that, while President Castro was under detention at Martinique, while the diplomatic proceedings, between France, Venezuela and the United States were in progress, his brother Celestino Castro, was getting his treasures together. They declare that Castro with the treasure boarded the Prinz Sigismund at Cartagena, accompanied by Mrs. Castro, and that they proceeded on the vessel as far as Savanilla, Colombia, where they landed to continue their trip to join the exiled president in France.

#### Dies on Child's Grave.

Jersey City, May 20.—Throwing himself on the grave of his 2-year-old son, George H. Chambers yesterday drank carbolic acid, and was dead when an ambulance reached the cemetery. Chambers' son Herbert died on February 16 last, and since then Chambers and his wife made frequent visits to the grave. The father yesterday visited the cemetery alone. Superintendent Bradshaw saw the man approach, and almost immediately afterward heard a peculiar sound. Turning, he saw Chambers lying on the boy's grave, writing in pain.

#### Presbyterian General Assembly.

Denver, Col., May 20.—With a sermon by the retiring moderator Dr. B. P. Fullerton, the 121st annual general assembly of the Presbyterian Church was formally opened this morning. More than one thousand commissioners, as the delegates are called, attended. The six prominent candidates for the office of moderator continued their campaigns among the commissioners until midnight last night. The general feeling is that all the candidates have been eliminated except Dr. Wm. L. McEwan, of Pittsburgh; Dr. James M. Barkley, of Detroit, and Dr. Edward P. Hill, of Chicago. After an all night caucus Dr. Robert MacKenzie, of New York, and Dr. Howard Johnston, of Colorado Springs, withdrew in favor of Dr. Hill for moderator.

#### Etna Causing Anxiety.

Catania, May 20.—People living in the vicinity of Mount Etna are fleeing today in anticipation of a violent eruption. The air for miles around the volcano is filled with hot ashes and it is feared that the lava will soon begin to flow. Several sharp earthquakes have been felt in the neighborhood. Scientists who are visiting the scene say that the present disturbance is far more threatening than any of those noted in the last few months. Ever since the disastrous quake of five months ago Mount Etna has shown signs of a violent eruption.

#### Market.

Georgetown, D. C., May 20.—Wheat 147-152